

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES OIL EMBARGO THREAT

REF: STATE 240346

ON SEPTEMBER 27 PRINCE SAUD ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
IN NEW YORK, QUOTE: THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA
CATEGORICALLY DENIES THE WASHINGTON POST STORY THIS
MORNING THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD STOP
ITS RAPIDLY GROWING OIL SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES AS
DEVELOPMENTS HYPOTHETICALLY RAISED IN THE STORY OCCUR.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL, SAUDI ARABIA'S
FOREIGN MINISTER, TODAY SAID IN NEW YORK ATTENDING THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS:

SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES STRONGLY IN COOPERATION, NOT
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CONFRONTATION. IT SEEKS TO WORK OUT ITS RELATIONS WITH

AMERICA AND ALL OTHER NATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD CONSTRUCT-
IVELY AND WITH MODERATION.

AS SAUDI ARABIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, I HAVE HAD CONSTRUCTIVE
DISCUSSIONS DURING MY CURRENT VISIT, WITH THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES AND A NUMBER OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN;

AND THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO INTIMATION OF ANYTHING
EXCEPT THE DESIRE OF OUR COUNTRY AND INDEED ALL THE ARAB
WORLD FOR A STRONG AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH AMERICA.

AS FOR THE THREE-DECADE OLD ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL
CURRENTLY IN THE NEWS, ARAB OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR
AGAIN AND AGAIN OVER THE YEARS THAT IT IS AN ECONOMIC
TOOL AS LEGITIMATE AS SIMILAR AMERICAN BOYCOTTS IN EFFECT
NOW AND IN THE PAST. IT INVOLVES NO RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION AND APPLIES TO ALL GROUPS. AS LONG AS THE
STATE OF BELLIGERENCY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB
COUNTRIES REMAINS, THE BOYCOTT WILL CONTINUE. IN TRUTH,
WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A BOYCOTT BY THE ARABS AGAINST
ISRAEL CAN BE A BASIS FOR ACTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

AS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO US BY MANY AMERICANS, PENDING
LEGISLATION WOULD, HOWEVER, AFFECT TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND ARAB COUNTRIES IN THAT IT WOULD PENALIZE
AMERICAN WORKERS AND BUSINESSES TRADING WITH THE ARAB
WORLD. BUT ALL THAT IS A MATTER FOR AMERICANS TO RESOLVE
AMONG THEMSELVES AND REQUIRES NO ARAB RESPONSE. IF
COMMERCE IS CUT OFF BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE
UNITED STATES, THAT WOULD BE THE RESULT NOT OF ANYTHING
DONE BY ARABS BUT THE CONSEQUENCE OF ACTION TAKEN HERE
AGAINST AMERICANS TRADING WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

AMERICA AND SAUDI ARABIA AND, INDEED, THE ENTIRE ARAB
WORLD HAVE HAD A LONG AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP. IT
IS BROADER AND DEEPER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE. I AM
CONFIDENT THE UNITED STATES AND
ARAB WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A MUTUALLY USEFUL AND
STEADILY GROWING RELATIONSHIP OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL
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